

DISTRICT SCHOOL NO 17 HABS NY226
SKANEATELES, ONONDAGA COUNTY NEW YORK

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NY 2 CENTRAL NEW YORK

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
WALTER H. CASSEBEER DISTRICT OFFICER
84 EXCHANGE STREET ROCHESTER NEW YORK

HABS
N.Y.
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DISTRICT SCHOOL NO. 17
SKANEATELES, ONONDAGA COUNTY, NEW YORK.

OWNER: Town of Skaneateles, Onondaga County, New York

OCCUPANT: School District No. 17.

DATE OF ERECTION: 1859

ARCHITECT: Unknown

BUILDER: Unknown

PRESENT CONDITION: The building is in very good condition.

NUMBER OF STORIES: There is a basement under the octagonal portion. A main floor of the school room, two vestibules, a brick wing and attached to that a later frame wing. Above the octagonal school room is an attic and on the roof a belfry.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION: The foundation to the watertable is of local limestone. Above that to the eaves eight inch brick walls, plastered in the vestibules and school room. The rear brick wing and the frame wing are un-plastered. The roof and framing thereof is wood. The belfry is metal-covered with a metal weathervane. The vestibules and school room have a vertical beaded wood dado to the window stools. The ceilings are narrow beaded boards. The main roof and those of the vestibules are metal covered, the wing and addition are composition roofing.

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS:

Minute Book of School District 23, Town of Marcellus, in possession of the Skaneateles Historical Association.
F. J. Humphries, President.

ADDITIONAL DATA:

The following data furnished by Mr. F. J. Humphries,

The school district was known as District No. 23, Town of Marcellus until 1830 when the Town of Skaneateles was set apart. Thereafter the district was No. 23, until January first, 1833 when it was named District No. 17.

"Marcellus Dec. 14th 1813. In school meeting at Barnabus Hall's voted that Timothy Foot be chairman. Voted that we hire Ira Barber's house for the use of the school three months, at the rate of two dollars a month. * * * and that we hire Amasa Dibble to teach our school three months at the rate of twelve dollars a month if can get 25 scholars signed for, * * * Voted that each scholar find half a

cord of wood by the fifteenth of Janry. 1814 or pay the Trustees four shillings and they to procure the wood.

Met at an adjourned meeting April 23, 1814 at the school. Doctor Alpheus Morse in the chair, *.*.* Voted unanimously to build a school house on the North line of Liva Peck's land on the lake road. Also to raise by tax, according to law, three hundred dollars toward building said school house.

Voted that the said school house be twenty-two feet by twenty-eight feet on the ground with nine feet posts, sided well and shingled roof, body and roof to be red the trimmings to be painted white, good double out side door with a good lock and key to it and a good brick chimney with a proportionable fire place, * * * Also voted that it be left discretionary with the trustees whether to set the said school house on Liva Peck's land or purchase a piece of ground of Mrs. Rebecca Cook.

In the annual report January 1st 1833 district No. 17 is used for the first time.

At a meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants of District No. 17 in the town of Skaneateles, authorized by law to vote therein held at the school house pursuant to adjournment from the 4th of Oct. 1852, to the 6th of Dec. following at 3 o'clock P.M. for the purpose of taking into consideration the utility of erecting a School House next year in said District. * * * Six votes in the affirmative and eight in the negative.

At a special meeting of the legal voters of District No. 17 held at the school house on Thursday the 12th day of Oct. 1856 at 7 o'clock P.M. for the purpose of procuring an addition to the site and building a new house as soon as practicable, John Burrridge chosen chairman.

Resolved that the District purchase of Eri D. Stoddard on the south side of the old site, land suitable for the house and yard for the sum of fifteen dollars and bounded as follows: Beginning at the south west corner of the old site and running south on the east line of land owned by Peck, until the South east corner of the wall that encloses the burial ground and thence east to the corner of the highway and then north to the south line of the old site and then west to the place of beginning, containing one fourth of an acre of land more or less, 14 years for procuring an addition and 7 days against.

At a special meeting of the legal voters of District No. 17 held by adjournment from the 12th day of Oct. to the 7th day of Dec. following for the purpose of voting the size and kind of House suitable for the District. John Burrridge, Chairman. The investigating committee being called, were all present except one and they were united in recommending the plan of an Octagon House as the cheapest and most suitable considering the locality and peculiar shape of the site, lying between two roads, they also thought that the shape capable of seating more scholars for the same money than a square house. The committee were then discharged.

The plan of the Octagon House was accepted by the District to be built of brick with a basement eight square, the sides thirteen feet, with a projection on one side eight feet for the purpose of going into the basement and petitioned off a part for a privy. That the Trustees serve as a building committee to have a School House built after the above plan in a good and substantial manner and commence from this date.

The meeting then adjourned to the third week from this evening at 7 o'clock P.M. John Burrridge, Chairman, Abram A. Lawton, District Clerk."

Additional notes by the writer:

At a special meeting dated Feb 14, 1959, an appropriation of \$1000. was voted for the "House for a school". The old school house was sold in 1859. A post and rail fence was erected in 1859 to enclose the new school and the motion was conditioned on the consent of Holcomb Peck allowing the District to cross his land.

The district was originally settled by Quakers, which may account in part for the two entrances to the school of 1859. A Quaker meeting house once occupied the site opposite the school.

The family of Liva Peck lie buried in a burial plot next to the school, on the west. There are thirteen burials in that plot, the earliest dated 1822 and the latest 1895, all graves are marked by stones. Holcomb Peck, 1796-1895 is buried there.

The School District Clerk today is Mrs. F. E. Dowling, West Lake Road, Skaneateles, N.Y.

Walter H. Cassebeer
District Officer NY2
Sept. 17, 1936